

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 11047 220441Z

11
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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R 211226Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2583

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK, BG, IN

SUBJ: BHUTTO CELEBRATES REGIME'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY

SUMMARY: SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF BHUTTO GOVERNMENT
CELEBRATED BY MASS MEETING OF ABOUT 100,000 IN RAWAL-
PINDI PRESIDED OVER BY PRIMIN BHUTTO. HIS SPEECH
CONSISTED LARGELY OF LAUDATORY REVIEW OF REGIME'S
ACCOMPLISHMENT AND CASTIGATION OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION.
SPEECH FOLLOWED STANDARD LINE AND SPRUNG NO SURPRISES.
END SUMMARY.

1. BHUTTO MARKED SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ACCESSION
TO POWER BY ADDRESSING MASS PUBLIC RALLY IN RAWALPINDI
DECEMBER 20. PRESS AND IMPARTIAL EMBASSY OBSERVERS
ESTIMATED CROWD AT AROUND 100,000. BHUTTO MAKES COUNTLESS
SPEECHES, BUT THIS WAS HIS FIRST BEFORE LARGE PUBLIC
GATHERING IN PUNJAB SINCE DECEMBER 1, 1972, WHEN HIS
SPEECH (ALSO IN RAWALPINDI) WAS PUNCTUATED BY STUDENT
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 11047 220441Z

HECKLERS OPPOSING EARLY PAKISTAN RECOGNITION OF BANG-

LADESH.

2. ANNIVERSARY SPEECH WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO REVIEW OF INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY TO LAVISH RECITAL OF PEOPLES' PARTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER PAST TWO YEARS AND TO CASTIGATION OF OPPOSITION NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY AND ITS LEADER, WALI KHAN. BHUTTO DENOUNCED LATTER AS OBSTRUCTIONIST, POSSIBLY TREASONOUS, AND WHOLLY NEGATIVISTIC, YET SAID HE WAS STILL PREPARED TO TALK TO HIM JUST AS HE IS PREPARED TO TALK TO MRS. GHANDI, EQUATING THE TWO AS ILL-DISPOSED TO PAKISTAN.

3. BHUTTO DWELT AT SOME LENGTH ON QUESTION OF RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH AND RHETORICALLY SOUGHT CROWD'S APPROVAL FOR CONTINUING TO LEAVE TIMING OF RECOGNITION TO HIS OWN JUDGMENT. SUGGESTING THAT BANGLADESH WOULD HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED EARLIER HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR OPPOSITION FROM STUDENT COMMUNITY, HE EXPRESSED HOPE STUDENTS WOULD UNDERSTAND NECESSITY FOR RESTORING TIES WITH MUSLIMS OF BANGLADESH AFTER EMOTIONS HAD COOLED.

4. ON DOMESTIC POLITICS BHUTTO HAD LITTLE TO SAY THAT WAS NEW AND SPRANG NO SURPRISES. HE CHARACTERIZED INFLATION AS MAJOR DOMESTIC PROBLEM AND ANNOUNCED THAT GOP WOULD APPOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY PRICES PROBLEM AND WOULD ALSO INCREASE IMPORTS. ONE NEW PROMISE HE MADE WAS TO PROVIDE WITHOUT COST SMALL PLOTS OF RESIDENTIAL LAND TO FAMILIES LIVING IN SUBSTANDARD HOUSING IN RURAL AREAS, BEGINNING WITH PUNJAB PROVINCE, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPELL OUT IN DETAIL HOW SCHEME WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. CONTRARY TO RUMORS THAT HE WOULD ANNOUNCE NEW INITIATIVE TO BREAD BALUCHISTAN POLITICAL STALEMATE, SUCH AS RELEASE OF DETAINED BALUCH LEADERS (ISLAMABAD 10909), BHUTTO TOOK STANDARD LINE ON THIS PROBLEM.

5. SOME PAKISTANI CONTACTS WHO ATTENDED MEETING COMMENTED THAT BHUTTO SPEECH HAD RECEIVED SOMEWHAT LACKLUSTER RECEPTION ALTHOUGH CROWD WAS FRIENDLY. AUDIENCE INCLUDED THOUSANDS OF PEASANTS WHO HAD BEEN TRUCKED TO RAWALPINDI FROM VARIOUS POINTS IN PUNJAB. MANY REPORTEDLY DISPLAYED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 11047 220441Z

RESTIVENESS DURING PRIMIN'S SPEECH, PERHAPS BECAUSE SOME

MAY NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD PRIMIN'S VARIETY OF URDU, PERHAPS BECAUSE SUBJECT MATTER OFTEN WAS OVER HEADS OF SIMPLE PEASANTS AND LABORERS, OR PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY WERE MERELY BORED. NONETHELESS, HUGE TURNOUT WAS IMPRESSIVE DEMONSTRATION OF PEOPLES' PARTY ABILITY TO DELIVER CROWDS WHEN PARTY LEADERSHIP REQUIRES THEM.

6. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WERE ELABORATE, UTILIZING THE POLICE, FEDERAL SECURITY FORCE, AND ARMY. ACCORDING TO POLICE SOURCES, IT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED THAT TEHRIK-I-ISTIQLAL AND LEFTIST LABOR GROUPS WOULD SEEK TO DISRUPT MEETING. HOWEVER, NO INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE.

7. IN KEEPING WITH POPULIST IMAGE OF PEOPLES' PARTY ON SUCH OCCASIONS, ALL MINISTERS, CHIEF MINISTERS, ETC., EXCEPT KEY PARTY OFFICIALS WERE RELEGATED TO SQUATTING WITH MASSES RATHER THAN SEGREGATED IN SPECIAL SECTION. CROWD WAS ALSO TREATED TO SOME SATORIAL INNOVATIONS: STERNLY DIGNIFIED MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AZIZ AHMED, SHED HIS USUAL DIPLOMATIC BLUE TO APPEAR IN KAMIZ WHILE BHUTTO SUBSTITUTED

"JINNAH CAP" (ASTRAKHAN) FOR CHINESE MILITARY HEADGEAR HE OFTEN WEARS WHEN DISPLAYING HIS PERSON TO MASSES.
BYROADE

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